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Harkin Asks Probe of ISU Iranian 'Spying'

AMES (UPI) — The FBI will be asked to investigate reports that the secret police of Iran, known as SAVAK, may be operating on the Iowa State university campus, Rep. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) said Saturday.

Harkin said he would contact the U.S. justice department within a few days to ask for an FBI investigation into an article printed in the Ames Daily Tribune. If the SAVAK agents are operating on the ISU campus in violation of U.S. law, Harkin said he would seek their ouster.

The Tribune said in a copyrighted story Saturday one source indicated Iranian students "had a problem" on the ISU campus last year with two men who were believed to be working for SAVAK.

The source, who is an American, was quoted by the Tribune as saying, "I'm not certain if I should give all of this information. It might be dangerous. There's no doubt about it (SAVAK activity), but I don't know who it is."

The Tribune also reported one American close to the Iranian student community who said the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency may be supporting SAVAK activity through a university employee who is suspected of being a CIA informant.

Iowa State officials declined comment on the report.

The Tribune said it gathered its information in interviews with Iranian students involved in the Iranian Student Association (ISA) and with four American ISU staff members who are close to the Iranian community.

There are 242 Iranian students enrolled at Iowa State. A 1973 Iranian law subjects Iranians to three to 10 years in prison for membership in the ISA. Iranian students told the Tribune they did not fear for their personal safety because of political activities here, but are concerned about their families in Iran.

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